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# ONE MARYLAND

## Raising the Wage, Increasing Graduation Rates, and Implementing Innovative Solutions

February 2014



### A Message from the Governor

Thanks to the better choices of Marylanders during tough times, our State has recovered more than 100 percent of the jobs lost during the national recession. Moms and dads are going back to work, but many of them are working harder than ever, only to fall further and further behind. This is not how our economy should work. Our economy is built from the middle out, and from the middle up. To strengthen our economy, we must strengthen and grow our middle class.

The economy we seek in Maryland is an economy with a human purpose. No person who works full-time and plays by the rules should be forced to raise their family in poverty, not in Maryland.

The minimum wage has decreased in value by 27 percent since 1968 – when it was \$1.60. In 2013 dollars, that wage would be \$10.72, far surpassing the current \$7.25 minimum wage. By raising our minimum wage to \$10.10, more than 450,000 Marylanders will see a boost in their paychecks. Now is the time to raise the minimum wage and grow our middle class.

Join me in fighting to raise the minimum wage for our families, our economy, and our State.

Thank you,  
Governor O'Malley

## What's happening?



### Raising the Minimum Wage

The morning after President Obama's State of the Union Address, Governor O'Malley joined the President on his visit to a Costco in Lanham, Md., where the Governor discussed his plan to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. The Governor gave a short speech before introducing Obama, who discussed the promises he had made the night before to create jobs, boost the economy, and



### AROUND MARYLAND

#### Seaside Boat Show

February 14-16 at Ocean City Convention Center  
Only \$10 admission to attend the 31st annual tradeshow hosted by Berlin Optimist Show featuring almost 350 boats and over 140 exhibitors.

#### Valentine Weekend Dinner and Lunch Cruises on the Inner Harbor

February 15 & 16 in Baltimore (Times may vary)  
Spend Valentine's Day on the water with your loved one in a romantic lunch or dinner setting in Inner Harbor.

#### A Walk in Father Henson's Footsteps

February 8, 15, and 22 at noon in North Bethesda  
Learn about Reverend Henson's escape from enslavement then retrace the footsteps to escape on the Underground Railroad.

#### Baltimore Restaurant Week

February 16- 23 in Baltimore  
"Many of Baltimore's top restaurants are offering special three-course menus." Prices may vary.

#### 2014 Annual George Washington's Birthday Ball

February 22 at 8 pm in Chestertown Come dressed up at this Harry Potter themed-party for this Annual Birthday Ball for faculty, board members, and parents.

For more events around Maryland, visit the [Maryland Tourism Office](#) and follow [@TravelMD](#) on Twitter.



### Which part of

raise the minimum wage nationwide. In his speech, Obama praised the Governor as “a champion for working families” and applauded the efforts being made by Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties to raise the regional minimum wage.

Both the Governor and the President praised the work of current US Secretary of Labor Tom Perez—the former labor secretary of Maryland—who, Obama noted, helped pass the nation’s first living wage law right here in Maryland. “To paraphrase a great patriot,” the Governor joked, “I regret that I have but one Cabinet to give to my country.”



### Increasing Graduation Rates

According to data released last week, Maryland’s high school graduation rate has reached almost 85% as of June 2013, exceeding the national average of 78%. The most dramatic progress was seen among African American, Hispanic, and special education students, but almost every demographic saw gains. Many credit Maryland’s Dream Act, which went into effect last year, with helping boost the graduation rate among Hispanic students by 2.5% statewide.



Overall, the State’s graduation rate increased 1% over the previous year, while drop-out rates fell to a record low of 9.3%. Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County experienced the most substantial progress, with countywide graduation rates increasing 2, 2.5, and 3% respectively. Such success should be attributed to the thousands of great educators and administrators throughout the State of Maryland, as well as to the parents and students who embrace education as the ladder to success. To ensure our students continue making such great strides, the Governor has made advancing universal pre-k a priority in 2014.



### Marylander on the Move: Tatyana McFadden

Tatyana McFadden is a 10-time Paralympic medalist in track and field and one of four women who will be competing on the Paralympic Nordic skiing team in Sochi this year. Tatyana was born with a condition known as spina bifida and adopted from a Russia orphanage at the age of six by Clarksville, MD resident Debbie McFadden. When she arrived in Maryland, she joined the Bennet Blazers, a Baltimore-area wheelchair sports organization.



She became the youngest Paralympic athlete to compete at the summer games in Athens at 15, bringing home a silver medal in the 100m track event. Since then, she has set world records in the 100m and brought home 8 more medals, three of them gold, from London and Beijing.

McFadden also won the Boston, Chicago, London, and New York marathons in 2013, making her the first person ever to win all four major marathons in the same year.

Tatyana only crossed over to Nordic skiing last season, making her one of three athletes on the team who also medaled in London. Competition for Nordic skiing



**the Winter Olympics are you most excited for?**

**sochi 2014**



**MARYLAND TWEETS**



Follow us on Twitter!

@GOCCP: Gov. O'Malley unveils new technology to shut down contraband cell phones used illegally by inmates in prisons <http://t.co/NCSuUsgeo2>

@StateStat RT @governoromalley: For 5 years in a row, MD schools have been named #1 in the country by @educationweek. Our teachers deserve our thanks.

@MarylandConnect Hey @YI\_Care it's Youth Enrollment Week in MD. Be our Valentine! #FriendswithBenefits

@MDBiz: Berlin, Maryland is in the running for America's Coolest Small Town! Cast your vote here- <http://ow.ly/tj0lJ>

@MDDisabilities: Vertical Challenge raises money for adaptive skiing ...via @frednewspos.

**Hashtag of the Month:** This month, use [#RaisetheWage](#) to help all Marylanders thrive.

will take place March 8-16 and includes biathlon and cross-country skiing, as well as two cross-country relays. Read more about her [return to Columbia!](#)

## Innovation Maryland: Google Apps for Government

According to the State [New Economy Index](#), the State of Maryland ranks third out of the top five states that are at the forefront of the nation's movement toward a global, innovation-based new economy. So it comes as no surprise that Maryland has become the largest state in the nation to streamline its IT infrastructure by adopting a cloud computing model run by Google. Last month, the Department of Information Technology rolled out [Google Apps for Government](#) for all 54,000 state employees.



With over 50 different CIOs working in different agencies, Google Apps allows Maryland to manage security from one central point. On a practical level, Google Apps has helped agencies improve productivity and collaboration. Google Apps has also created a new sense of cohesiveness among the entire workforce because with Gmail, we provide every employee with a maryland.gov email. We're impressed at how effectively Google Apps has brought disparate agencies closer together, making us into a stronger team.

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